

Creation Care Team at St Patrick's Church

Meeting: date: January 8, 2024

Location: Faith Formation room – Club Building

See minutes of previous meetings archived at <https://stpatrickbridge.org/creation-care/>

Contact us at Creation.Care@stpatrickbridge.org

Previous meeting of the full committee: Nov 13, 2023

Social gathering of the committee was held on Dec 13, 2023

TONIGHT:

facilitate: Brian Stefan-Szittai

notes: Brian Stefan-Szittai

Prayer: Denise Rowland

Creation Care: striving to be a parish where the culture is love and care for God's creation

Members who committed to doing something for the item are highlighted in yellow under each agenda item.

JAN 8 2024

Opening Prayer (Denise Rowland)

NEORS - Sewer Grant – storm water diversion (Jared Bartley)

November 2023. Brenna and Jared met with Environmental Design Group (EDG) , which did field tests and survey work that will eventually inform some of the design work. Scope: big side parking lot only

January: EDG will create a temporary website where we can view the plans

February: we need to figure out how to share this info with parishioners: "we received a grant to manage storm water." Jared will write up something.

September: grant application due for construction grants

March 2025: construction could begin

Trees update (Bill Merriman)

Bill has been talking with Urban Forestry; had the tree lawn surveyed on Whitman. They planted four trees there

W 38th tree lawn: recommended medium sized trees on W. 38th because of overhead utility lines. Bill was going to put in a request for those trees but we decided to put that request on hold until we see the plans from EDG for the parking lot

Laudato Si' awards (Judy Opalach)

Archdiocese of Cincinnati: program to become a Laudato Si' parish or school.

Laudato Si' families: 10% of the families (in the parish or the school) complete an assessment survey.

Care for Creation formation program also exists

St Pat's: could we make a pilot program. Judy will make a plan and present to us at the February meeting.

April 21: Brian will sign up Creation Care to run the fellowship (coffee and donuts) so that we can present whatever we want re the NEORS grant and Laudato Si' families

St Pat's kitchen in lower hall of club: Since money was raised (Giving Tuesday, Nov 30 2023) and the solicitations said it was for the food center kitchen, Brenna will ask Parish Council what is happening with that money. Our interest: dishwasher, reusable plates and cutlery, etc.

Advocacy (Judy Opalach)

Advocacy is one of our core principles, alongside prayer, education, and action.

How we can better engage the parish in advocacy?

It was suggested we look at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

But others said we should probably stick to Catholic-focused environmental groups:

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

<https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Brian will ask the Diocesan Social Action Office (DSAO) to push Laudate Deum more so that we can use their resources (e.g. on carbon neutrality) to educate our parish. We would also like to see a copy of the pope's address to COP 28.

Brenna will share (from Ignatian Solidarity Network) four short videos re Laudate Deum

Kateri Garden (Denise Rowland)

Oct 2023: we held blessing led by Fr Gurnick outside around the garden. Well attended by parishioners

Nov 2023: we discussed signage and registering the garden. **Brenna** will register us with the Kateri Garden website. **Judy** will register us with other sites for pollinator highways. **Jared** will get sample signage. **Claire** will talk with Fr Gurnick about the statue and bench and signage.

Apr 2024: could we hand out seeds on a Sunday morning (possibly a Sunday when there is Parish School of Religion:*)? We could do it in collaboration with PSR but not depend solely on PSR. We could set up our own table at the back of church. Who will follow up with this idea?

*PSR dates are: March 10, 24. April 14, 21. May: there is no PSR scheduled.

Recycle Round-Up

We postponed this item until the Feb 8 2024 meeting

Lent (Brian Stefan-Szittai)

Brian will coordinate weekly reflections for the Sunday readings with **Kate, Dick, Judy, Mary Grace.**

Brian will edit and format those for: printed bulletin, website, e-news, printed calendar. Still to be determined if we'll get this together in time for Lent (Ash Wednesday is Feb 14).

West Side Creation Care (Brian Stefan-Szittai)

Three of us are committed to representing St Pat's at the monthly meetings, held 3rd Wednesdays at St Paul's Community Church, 7pm. Conveners are Judy Slivka (St Malachi) and Pastor Dean Van Farowe (Calvary Reformed on W 65th).

January: Mary Grace DeStefanis

February: Brian Stefan-Szittai

March: Kate Campbell

Closing Reflection (Denise Rowland)

An Apache Prayer

Next meeting: Feb 12 2024

facilitate: Claire Foley

notes: Brenna Davis

prayer: Jared Bartley